

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 2-5 and 10 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11 and 12 presently stand rejected. Claim 10 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By way of this amendment, Applicant is amending claims 2, 3, 5 and 10.

In regard to the rejections, claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hosomi et al. (USP 5,820,068) and claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosomi et al. in view of Sato (USP 6,502,784).

In order to expedite allowance of the application, Applicant has voluntarily rewritten claim 10 in independent form to include all the requirements of independent claim 7. Accordingly, claim 10 is now in condition for immediate allowance. Additionally, claims 2-5 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on allowable claim 10.

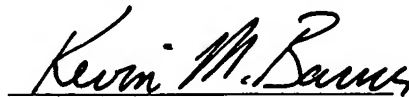
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims **2-5 and 10**, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 10/067,935

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin M. Barner", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin M. Barner
Registration No. 46,075

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 29, 2004

Attorney Docket No.: Q68468